

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00388 250959Z

10

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 024626

O 250912Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6735

S E C R E T AMMAN 0388

NODIS

STADIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UO, US, UR

SUBJECT: HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS

REF: AMMAN 0280, STATE 017807

1. I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE THOROUGH LOOK AT THIS PROBLEM INHERENT IN THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO ME IN REFTEL (STATE 017807). WHILE OUR CURRENT THINKING RUNS ALONG THE LINES OF UNHINGING THE HEAVY LIFT HELICOPTERS FROM THE STUDY FOR REASONS ALREADY PROVIDED, WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CONTINUING TO LOOK AT THE SITUATION IN THAT CONTEXT, PARTICULARLY SINCE PROBLEM OF MANNIBG THE HELICOPTERS WILL NECESSARILY BE INVOLVED. WE WOULD LIK FORWARD TO AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE QUESTION OF HELICOPTER RELEASE AND A GO AHEAD ON THE STUDY SO THAT WE WILL KNOW WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO GO FROM HERE. ALREADY A NUMBER OF KEY JAF OFFICERS HAVE SPOKEN TO US FAVORABLY ABOUT THE IDEA OF A STUDY.

2. DOD'S JUDGEMENT ABOUT ABSORPTIVE CAPACITIES IS PROBABLY BASED ON EUCOM RECOMMENDATION WHICH PROVIDED FOR A MAXIMUM OF SIX HELICOPTERS. THE MILITARY PORTION OF THIS MISSION, AND AT PRESENT THE RJAF COMMANDER (PLEASE PROTECT AND DO NOT QUOTE), TOOK THE TIME FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT AND RECOMMENDED 12 PROVIDED THEY COULD BE TIME-PHASED OVER 2-4 YEARS AND FUNDED ENTIRELY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 00388 250959Z

BY A THIRD PARTY. I WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT THE LATTER

POSITION WHICH PUTS THE EMPHASIS ON TIME AS POPOSED TO A FLAT NUMBER. IN THIS WAY THEY PROBABLY COULD HANDLE 12, AS WELL AS 12 COBRAS, BUT THIS WOULD STILL REQUIRE DISPOSAL OF 12 OF PRESENT HELICOPTER FLEET. WE BELIEVE THAT IN ANY APPROACH TO THE JORDANIANS WE WHOULD NOT BE MESMERIZED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER BUT SHOULD LIK AT THE QUESTION OF AN INITIAL INCREMENT WITH AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THE TIME PHASED UTILIZATION OF SUBSEQUENT AIRCRAFT UP TO A LEVEL WHICH MEETS THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AS WE AND JORDANIANS ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP A COMMON VIEW OF SUCH.

3. I AM AT THIS POINT PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY THE INDICATION THAT MUNITION CONTROL ON THE BASIS OF THE THINKING IN REFTTEL MIGHT BE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD AND LICENSE THE SALE OF UP TO 6 AIRCRAFT. AT A TIME WHEN THE KING MAY BE FACING A FIGHT OF 12, SUCH A PREMATURE DECISION COULD QUITE POSSIBLY PUSH HIM FURTHER TOWARD THE SOVIETS SINCE IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE "LAST WORD" FROM THE US. IN ADDITION, WHILE 6 MAY BE THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER FOR ANY INITIAL BUY, (AND WE WOULD HOPE ANY FUTURE LICENSING IF IT MUST BE ON THAT BASIS WOULD MAKE THAT CLEAR), ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT MIGHT WELL BE ABSORBED OVER TIME, AND A FINAL FIGURE IN TERMS OF SOME AGREEMENT ABOUT THE FULL REQUIREMENT IN MILITARY TERMS WOULD BE PREJUDICED AT LEAST INITIALLY BY SUCH A DECISION. FINALLY IF KING AND RIFAI ARE REALLY BARGAINING WITH US, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE TO BE BETTER AT THIS POINT NOT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ANY INFORMATION UNTIL WE SEE WHERE THE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE GOING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION -- WITH THE SOVIETS. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, HELICOPTERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN00388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850107-2335
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760123/aaaaauof.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, STADIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, STADIS
Reference: 76 AMMAN 280, 76 STATE 17807
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <15 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <05 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, UR, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006